

Series II
Subjects Files,
1916-1973

Box 15, Folder 4

Correspondence with
Chief, Historical
Division, Special
Staff, US Army...
1944. 1950-1951

0949

Coms Bates
Originator's copy

A 12
Ser 2129-50 (AM/MSB;jc)

AUG 11 1950

From: President, Naval War College.
To : Chief, Historical Division (World War II Group),
Special Staff, U.S. Army.

Subj: Information on Air Searches Conducted by Army Air
Forces in Connection With the Leyte Operation,
October 1944; request for.

1. The Naval War College is about to undertake an analytical study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. It is to be primarily a study of the decisions made by the various naval commanders. It is therefore necessary to obtain information concerning the land-based air searches throughout the action. There is no detailed information available at the War College on the air searches conducted by the Commander, Southwest Pacific Area, in this operation, nor by China-based Army aircraft.

2. Information available indicates that Southwest Pacific searches were conducted by aircraft based at Morotai, Bisk, and Darwin, and that the plan for these searches may be contained in COMSOPAC Operation Plan 13-44, Annex "G". There appear also to have been searches of the South China Sea by China-based aircraft, but from what bases is not clear.

3. In order to provide information necessary for this analysis, it is requested that the following be furnished for the period 11-27 October 1944 inclusive:

(A) Geographic delineation of each sector searched from Morotai, Bisk and the China Coast.

(B) Number of times each sector was searched daily.

(C) Type of aircraft employed for each sector and the base from which it operated.

(D) Time of commencement and completion of each sector search.

(E) Important surface contacts reported.

T. N. COOLEY
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
Acting President

0950

Analysis Section
Originator's copy

A12
Ser E188-50(AB/RWB:je)

From: President, Naval War College.
To: Chief, Historical Division (World War II Group),
Special Staff, U.S. Army.

Subj: G.M.C., S.W.P.A. Operations Instructions number 70 -
request for.

1. It is requested that a copy of the subject instructions be made available to the Naval War College. It is believed that these instructions were issued in conjunction with the planning for the Leyte Operation which occurred during October, 1944.

T. R. COOLEY
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
Acting President

0951

C O P Y

C O P Y

HIS

23 August 1950

SUBJECT: Information on Air Searches - Leyte Campaign.

TO : President
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

1. Reference your letter of 11 August 1950 requesting information on air search operations during the Leyte Campaign. I am shipping under separate cover (Registered Mail) a series of twenty-two (22) journals of the G-3 Section, GHQ, Southwest Pacific Area, covering the period 10 October through 31 October 1944, which contain the desired information.

2. The subject journals are being sent on a short-term loan since they are the original and only existing records of this type in the Department of the Army. I would appreciate their return as soon as they have served their purpose. Partial return of this shipment by individual journals is agreeable.

3. Reproduction of any or all of the material being sent you is authorized.

ORLANDO WARD
Major General, USA
Chief, Military History

C O P Y

C O P Y

0952

28 August 1950

Major General Orlando Ward, U.S.A.
Chief of Military History
Pentagon Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Ward:

Thank you very much for your letter of 23 August wherein you stated that you were sending me the G-3 journals requested by me.

Needless to say, I appreciate your courtesy in forwarding these journals and once they have arrived we shall take care of them as you requested. I am sure that they will be most helpful.

It was a great pleasure to meet you and to discover your keen interest in matters historical. It was also pleasing to note your friendly attitude towards my endeavors and your readiness to contribute towards them. For this, I am exceedingly grateful, as I have discovered that without good information, almost all history or analyses are more or less worthless.

Very sincerely yours

R. W. BATES
Commodore, USN(Ret)

0953

20 Sept 1950

Air
Ser 2670-50(AB/RWB:jc)

From: President, Naval War College
To : Chief of Historical Division (World War II Group)
Special Staff, U.S. Army

Subj: Information on Air Searches Conducted by Army Air Forces
in connection with the Leyte Operation, October 1944;
request for

Ref : (a) Pres NavWarCol ltr Ser 2129 of 11 August 1950
(b) Your ltr of 23 August 1950

1. Reference (a) requested information on air searches conducted from Morotai, Biak, and China bases in support of the Leyte operation in October 1944. Reference (b) forwarded twenty-two (22) journals of the G-3 Section, GHQ, Southwest Pacific Area covering the time of the operation.
2. The journals are now being examined and will yield some information on air searches conducted from Morotai and Biak. There is, however, no basic information in the journals on searches conducted by Allied Air Forces based in China, although there are some contact reports from such searches.
3. It is accordingly requested that such information as may be available from other sources relative to the conduct of air searches from China bases in support of the Leyte operation be forwarded to this command. Particularly desired are: (a) The geographic delineation of sectors searched, (b) the type and number of aircraft used for search and their bases, (c) the times of commencement and completion of each sector search, (d) important surface contacts reported, (e) the commands conducting these searches and their command relation to ComScWesPac. In other words, how were these searches coordinated with those of ComSoWesPac? (f) How were contacts relayed to ComSoWesPac?
4. Receipt is also acknowledged of a copy of GHQ, SouthWest Pacific Operating Instructions Number 70.
5. The cooperation of the Historical Division, Special Staff, U.S. Army in assisting this command in obtaining data is appreciated.

T. R. COOLEY
Acting President

0954

A12
Ser 625-31(AS:HSP:jc)
31 JAN 1951

~~RESTRICTED~~

From: President, Naval War College
To: Officer-in-Charge, Military History, Pentagon Building,
Room 1E564, Washington 25, D.C.

Subj: Command Relations in the CBI

Encl: (1) One rough Command Relation Diagram for October 1944

1. For some time this command has been endeavoring through many sources to discover the command relationship which existed at the time of the Battle for Leyte Gulf between the air forces in the China-Burma-India Theater and COMSOWESPAC, CINCPAC and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The replies to date from all sources have been very confusing, and nearly all reports indicate that there was no agreement at this time.
2. The other day, Commodore Bates of my Staff, while discussing the matter with the Historical Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discovered that it was quite possible that this information was available within your command, and in particular was available to Mr. Charles Romanus, a CBI Historian, in Room 1E574A.
3. In enclosure (1) there is drawn up a rough diagram for the CBI Theater, but more particularly for the China Theater, which gives some idea of how this command relationship was handled.
4. This command would appreciate it very much if you would have your CBI Section complete this diagram, answer the questions on the diagram, and provide any further information that might be available concerning the command relations. An important change appears to have been made on 24 October when General Stillwell was relieved by General Wedemeyer.
5. This command would appreciate any information concerning the searches made, the bombing attacks made in support of the Leyte Operation, including the two bombing attacks made on Formosa by the TWENTIETH Air Force and any of the following

~~RESTRICTED~~

0955

A12

Ser 624-51(AS:RHS:js)
31 JAN 1951

~~RESTRICTED~~

From: President, Naval War College
To: Officer-in-Charge, Military History, Pentagon Building,
Room 1E564, Washington 25, D.C.

Subj: Command Relations in the CBI

Encl: (1) One rough Command Relation Diagram for October 1944

1. For some time this command has been endeavoring through many sources to discover the command relationship which existed at the time of the Battle for Leyte Gulf between the air forces in the China-Burma-India Theater and COMSOMESPAC, CINCPAC and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The replies to date from all sources have been very confusing, and nearly all reports indicate that there was no agreement at this time.

2. The other day, Commodore Bates of my Staff, while discussing the matter with the Historical Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discovered that it was quite possible that this information was available within your command, and in particular was available to Mr. Charles Remann, a CBI Historian, in Room 1E574A.

3. In enclosure (1) there is drawn up a rough diagram for the CBI Theater, but more particularly for the China Theater, which gives some idea of how this command relationship was handled.

4. This command would appreciate it very much if you would have your CBI Section complete this diagram, answer the questions on the diagram, and provide any further information that might be available concerning the command relations. An important change appears to have been made on 24 October when General Stillwell was relieved by General Wedemeyer.

5. This command would appreciate any information concerning the searches made, the bombing attacks made in support of the Leyte Operation, including the two bombing attacks made on Formosa by the TWENTIETH Air Force and any of the following

~~RESTRICTED~~

0956

RESTRICTED

information as is available:

(a) The organization of the FOURTEENTH and TWENTYFIFTH Air Forces in China including the wing, group, and Squadron number designations.

(b) The bases from which they operated during October 1944.

(c) The number of aircraft assigned and the number actually available to squadrons showing the type aircraft (such as P-40 or P-47).

(d) The bomb load carried on operations which were in support of the Leyte Campaign and the cruising radius of the various types with bomb load.

6. It would also be of interest to discover when these bases were captured by the Japanese and were therefore no longer available to the Allied command.

S. G. BARCHET
By direction

RESTRICTED

0957

Department of the Army
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY
Special Staff, United States Army,
Washington 25, D.C.

6 Feb 1951

Captain S. G. Barchet, USN,
President, Naval War College,
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

Dear Captain Barchet:

We were able to complete parts (a) and (b) and a portion of part (d) of paragraph 5 of your basic letter of 31 January 1951. Inclosure No. 2 contains the information available to our CBI Section.

As far as we are able to ascertain, we believe that you are right in stating that no formal agreement existed between CBI Theater, CINCPAC and COMSOWESPAC regarding KING II operation. As early as 18 September 1944 General Stilwell was notified by the JCS of KING II. He was told Admiral Nimitz would contact him by radio for air support from CBI bases. Therefore, a cooperation and coordination channel did exist from that date forward. Stilwell, through the command arrangements on Inclosure No. 2, directed his Air Force Commands to coordinate their efforts with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz.

Stilwell also took personal interest in the XX Bomber Command's activities from 11 October through 15 October. The Stilwell Papers, page 343, refer to a visit to Chengtu to see General LeMay. His unpublished diaries have the following entries, which give an interesting insight on the manner in which he personally cooperated with MacArthur, Nimitz and LeMay:

14 Oct 44. "Shoved off for Chengtu at 5. Arrived at 8:30. Saw LeMay and Col. Sol Rosenblatt, special representative for Arnold. 129 B--29's off for Okayama. 9 back. 120 over target. 4 lost. No AA. No interception. 650 tons dropped (400,000 gallons of gasoline!) Talked till 11:30 p.m." [Check this against Mission No. 10 on Incl No. 2.]

15 Oct 44. "....Up at 7:00. Breakfast. Saw first photos. Poor bombing. Off at 9:00 for Chungking. In at 10:15. ... Navy in (either a radio or a liaison officer) at 11:45 p.m. with a request from Nimitz to scout for Jap Fleet."

Stilwell's diary entries show that he kept his CBI command abreast of Admiral Nimitz's wishes regarding KING II and assumed a direct responsibility in contacting LeMay in order to see if the orders coming through JCS channels to both officers were being implemented.

0958

General Stilwell was recalled to Washington on 18 October, and on 25 October 1944, Major Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer was given a JCS directive to coordinate his air effort with MacArthur and Nimitz. A tri-intra-theater agreement on the degree of coordination was reached at Hollandia on 2-4 November 1944.

In answer to parts (c) and (d) of paragraph 5, we suggest that you contact Lt. Col. Arthur J. Larsen, Air Force Historical Division, Room 5E871, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

It is hoped that the above information and Inclosure No. 2 will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

(s) ORLANDO WARD,
Major General, USA,
Chief, Military History.

2 Incls:

1. No change.
2. CBI Command chart.

0959

13 February 1951

Dear Colonel Larson:

This office is writing a critical analysis of the major naval battles of World War II, and it is necessary, on occasions, to obtain information from other sources.

I wrote to General Ward for certain information, and am very happy to say that he provided most of it. But, some information he was unable to provide, and recommended that I obtain that information from you.

I asked General Ward if he could give me any information concerning the searches made and the bombing attacks made in support of the Leyte Operation, which, as you know, occurred during the late middle of October 1944. I wished information concerning the bombing attacks made on Formosa by the TWENTIETH Air Force, and any of the following information:

(a) The organization of the FOURTEENTH and TWENTIETH Air Forces in China, including the Wing, Group and Squadron designations.

(b) The Bases from which they operated during October 1944.

(c) The number of aircraft assigned and the number actually available to squadrons, showing the type aircraft (such as P-40 or P-47).

(d) The bomb load carried on operations which were in support of the Leyte Campaign, and the cruising radius of the various types with bomb load.

I am happy to say that General Ward gave me information concerning items (a) and (b), but he was unable to give me any information concerning items (c) and (d). It was for items (c) and (d) that he suggested I write to you.

For your information I am enclosing herewith the Diagram of Command, which General Ward prepared for me, with the General's forwarding letter. This may be of use to you in providing me with the information which I desire. As the Diagram of Command is the only copy of the command setup in the CBI which I have, I must request that it be returned to me so soon as you have completed working with it. If, for any reason, you see any mistakes in it, I should appreciate your kindness in indicating the errors.

0960

It may be of interest to you to know that the Battle for Leyte Gulf is being prepared by the Naval War College, as a critical analysis of naval command. It makes little reference to errors of commanders of other services, unless perchance such errors affect the naval commander's decisions.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Commodore, U. S. Navy.

Encl:

- (1) Diagram of Command.
- (2) Copy of Major General Ward's forwarding letter dtd 6 Feb 1951.

Lt. Col. Arthur J. Larson,
Air Force Historical Division,
Room 5E871,
The Pentagon,
Washington, D. C.

0961



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

16 February 1951

Commodore R. W. Bates
Naval War College
Newport
Rhode Island

Dear Commodore Bates:

This office is in receipt of your letter of 13 February 1951 in which you request certain historical information pertaining to the Fourteenth and Twentieth Air Forces and the Leyte Campaign.

Inasmuch as the basic source material needed to furnish a reply is contained in the Archives of the Historical Division of the Air University Library at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your request to that office and you will hear from them directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur J. Larsen", is positioned above the typed name.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Chief, Air University Historical
Liaison Office

0962